

Message Text

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S/S R.CASTRODALE

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O R 150147Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 096905

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PBOR, IS, LE, UN

SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: MESSAGE FOR UNSYG WALDHEIM.

1. SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM WILL BE DEPARTING FOR THE MIDDLE EAST FROM VIENNA, ARRIVING IN BEIRUT ON APRIL 16. PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR HIM TO HAVE THE BENEFIT OF OUR MOST CURRENT ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. ACCORDINGLY, THE FOLLOWING NON-PAPER SHOULD BE CONVEYED TO HIM PRIOR TO HIS CONFIDENTIAL

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DEPARTURE FROM VIENNA. EMBASSY SHOULD POINT OUT THAT SINCE THE SYG HAS BEEN AWAY FROM NEW YORK FOR THE PAST WEEK, WE THOUGHT HE MIGHT FIND USEFUL AN ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON BEFORE HE ARRIVED IN THE AREA. THE SAME ANALYSIS SHOULD BE GIVEN TO UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL URQUHART, WHO WILL ACCOMPANY WALDHEIM.
2. BEGIN QUOTE: WE BELIEVE THAT YOUR TRIP TO BEIRUT AND JERUSALEM AT THIS POINT SHOULD PROVE MOST USEFUL IN CRYSTALLIZING CERTAIN IMPORTANT POINTS ESSENTIAL TO THE OBJECTIVES OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 425. UNIFIL

APPARENTLY IS BEING DEPLOYED SMOOTHLY AND IS ALREADY DEMONSTRATING ITS EFFECTIVENESS BUT THERE ARE IMPORTANT

ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED IF IT IS TO OPERATE SUCCESSFULLY OVER THE LONG RUN. WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO ASSIST IN ENCOURAGING ADDITIONAL TROOP CONTINGENTS TO ARRIVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND TO PROVIDE, AS REQUESTED, THE NECESSARY AIRLIFT FOR THEIR PROMPT AND EFFICIENT DEPLOYMENT.

3. TO BE MORE SPECIFIC, THESE ARE THE SEVERAL FRONTS WHERE EARLY MOVEMENT SEEMS NECESSARY IF THE SECURITY COUNCIL OBJECTIVES ARE TO BE ACHIEVED:

A. RAPID ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL IS OF PRIME IMPORTANCE, NOT ONLY IN COMPLYING WITH RESOLUTION 425, BUT IN ASSURING THAT BOTH PRESENT AND POTENTIAL UNIFIL TROOP CONTINGENTS REMAIN COMMITTED TO THE SUCCESS OF THE PEACEKEEPING OPERATION. WE HAVE STRONGLY URGED ON ISRAEL THE NEED FOR COMMITMENT TO FULL WITHDRAWAL BY THE END OF APRIL. WE HOPE THIS PUBLIC COMMITMENT WILL HAVE BEEN MADE BEFORE YOUR ARRIVAL, AND ARE WORKING TO THAT END. IT WILL BE IMPORTANT IN MAINTAINING THE PACE OF DEPLOYMENT OF NEW CONFIDENTIAL

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UNIFIL UNITS. IT ALSO SEEMS TO US EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT A FIRM WITHDRAWAL SCHEDULE BE SET BEFORE THE SPECIAL SESSION ON UNIFIL FINANCING BEGINS ON APRIL 20. OTHERWISE, THE SESSION COULD DEGENERATE INTO A POLITICAL CONFRONTATION, WITH UNFORTUNATE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE FINANCING AND THE VIABILITY OF UNIFIL. THE MESSAGE YOU CONVEY TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND TO THE SPECIAL SESSION IN REPORTING ON YOUR TRIP WILL BE A PRIME FACTOR IN SHAPING DISCUSSIONS IN NEW YORK, IN OUR OPINION.

B. RAPID AND FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF UNIFIL IS ALSO ESSENTIAL TO ASSURE THAT STRATEGIC AREAS FROM WHICH ISRAEL WITHDRAWS ARE IMMEDIATELY OCCUPIED BY UNIFIL. THE ISRAELIS HAVE A FULLY VALID CONCERN THAT TERRITORY FROM WHICH THEY DEPART NOT BE REOCCUPIED BY ARMED PALESTINIANS. IF THAT WERE TO HAPPEN, THE FULFILLMENT OF RESOLUTION 425'S OBJECTIVE OF RESTORING LEBANESE AUTHORITY WOULD BE JEOPARDIZED, AND ISRAEL WOULD CONSIDER ITSELF

IT WOULD BE JEOPARDIZED, UNIFIL ITSELF WILL BE PUT IN A VERY UNCERTAIN AND DIFFICULT POSITION, AND ISRAEL WOULD CONSIDER ITSELF AGAIN TO BE FACED WITH THE SAME THREAT WHICH THEY SOUGHT TO ELIMINATE THROUGH THEIR INVASION OF SOUTHERN LEBANON. THE PRINCIPAL ANSWER TO THIS

PROBLEM IS RAPID DEPLOYMENT OF UNIFIL. WE BELIEVE IT ESSENTIAL THAT BATTALIONS FROM SENEGAL, NIGERIA AND IRAN

BE WELL IN PLACE BEFORE THE END OF APRIL. WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THESE GOVERNMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT'S APPROACHES AND OFFERED OUR ASSISTANCE IN EXPEDITING THE ARRIVAL OF THEIR CONTINGENTS. WE BELIEVE IT MAY BE ESSENTIAL TO SEE THE AUTHORIZED SIZE OF THE FORCE EXPANDED FROM 4,000 TO 6,000 MEN. WE WOULD SUPPORT YOUR JUDGMENT IN THIS REGARD. ANY RECOMMENDATION FOR AN EXPANSION MIGHT BE BEST RECEIVED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL IF CONTAINED IN YOUR REPORT ON YOUR TRIP TO LEBANON.
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C. THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF LEBANESE AUTHORITY IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE COUNTRY IS, OF COURSE, A PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE OF RESOLUTION 425. OUR PERSISTENT AND INTENSE EFFORTS TO PERSUADE THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT TO DISPATCH A SUBSTANTIAL FORCE TO THE SOUTH HAVE MET WITH SOME SUCCESS. AS YOU ARE AWARE, HOWEVER, THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT IS RELUCTANT TO MOVE TROOPS FROM BEIRUT, GIVEN THE RECENT PERSISTING CIVIL DISTURBANCES THERE. (OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT, WITH THE RECENT CONCLUSION OF A CEASEFIRE, THE FIGHTING OF THE PAST WEEK AROUND BEIRUT HAS SUBSTANTIALLY DIMINISHED. HOWEVER, IT MAY BREAK OUT AGAIN AT ANY TIME, AND THIS PROSPECT IS A MAJOR FACTOR IN THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT'S THINKING REGARDING TROOP DEPLOYMENT.) WE HAVE CONTINUED TO POINT OUT TO THE LEBANESE THAT THEY CANNOT EXPECT TROOP CONTRIBUTORS TO TAKE RISKS WITH THEIR CONTINGENTS WHICH LEBANON REFUSES TO TAKE WITH ITS OWN ARMED FORCES. WE HAVE POINTED OUT THAT UNIFIL CANNOT SERVE AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE EXTENSION OF LEBANESE AUTHORITY TO THE SOUTH. IT IS CONSEQUENTLY IMPORTANT TO THE OBJECTIVES OF RESOLUTION 425 AND TO UNIFIL'S EFFECTIVE PERFORMANCE THAT THE AREA REMAIN CALM AND THE CEASEFIRE BE SCRUPULOUSLY OBSERVED. WE WOULD STRONGLY SUPPORT A CALL TO ALL CONCERNED TO AVOID PROVOCATIONS AT THIS CRITICAL JUNCTURE. YOUR PRESENCE IN BEIRUT SHOULD HAVE A CALMING EFFECT BY REASSURING THE LEBANESE OF THE STRONG INTERNATIONAL CONCERN THAT LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY BE PRESERVED. YOUR TRIP ALSO SHOULD SERVE TO REMIND LEBANON THAT THE UN CANNOT DO THE JOB ITSELF; THE BASIC RESPONSIBILITY IS LEBANON'S. FOR THE SAME REASONS, AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF SECURING IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 425'S PROVISIONS REGARDING RESTORATION OF LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY, WE WOULD SUPPORT THE APPOINTMENT
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OF A SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE RESIDENT IN BEIRUT WITH NECESSARY POLITICAL FINESSE AND EXPERIENCE.

4. FINALLY IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE SYRIANS AND MOST OTHER ARAB GOVERNMENTS ARE CONCERNED THAT UNIFIL

SUCCEED. THEY HAVE: THUS FAR BEEN CONCENTRATING ON THE
OBJECTIVE OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. AT THE SAME TIME, HOW-
EVER, IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT THAT THE HIGHLY UNSTABLE
SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON NOT BE ALLOWED TO BE RE-
CREATED. THE RESTORATION OF LEBANESE GOVERNMENT CONTROL
THERE IS ESSENTIAL TO RESTORATION OF STABILITY IN
LEBANON. ARAB GOVERNMENTS MUST INFLUENCE THE PLO TO
AVOID FURTHER HOSTILITIES IN THE AREA OF UNIFIL'S OPERA-
TION. FOR EXAMPLE, IT MAY PROVE POSSIBLE IN TIME TO
PERSUADE THE SYRIANS TO REMOVE THE ARAB DETERMINED FORCE
DOWN TO THE LITANI, OR AT LEAST TO TAKE STEPS TO
NEUTRALIZE A PART OF THIS AREA. ON YOUR RETURN WE WOULD
APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS ON MEASURES THAT MIGHT BE TAKEN
TO ENSURE THAT THE MOMENTUM ACHIEVED THROUGH ISRAELI
WITHDRAWAL AND INITIAL DEPLOYMENT DOES NOT DISSIPATE
SHORT OF THE FINAL OBJECTIVE OF RESTORING LEBANESE
SOVEREIGNTY. EMD QUOTE.

5. FOR GENEVA: PLEASE PASS TEXT OF NON-PAPER TO USY-
GURUHART, WHO CAN BE LOCATED THROUGH UN OFFICE GENEVA.
CHRISTOPHER

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